A CRITICAL
EXAMINATION
OF THE
SENSE, STYLE, and GRAMMAR,
OF
Mr. *SHERIDAN*'s
PRINTED
ORATION.

Humbly ſubmitted to all

NOBLEMEN, GENTLEMEN, and OTHERS, who ſincerely wiſh to ſee a WELL-PLANNED PUBLICK SCHOOL and ACADEMY eſtabliſhed in this Kingdom, under the Conduct of able Inſtructors; and whoſe Attachment is not to the MAN, but to the THING.

By *NICHOLAS NO-BODY*, Eſq;

Litera ſcripta manet.

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A CRITICAL
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ALL good Patriots and true Lovers of this Country being already agreed touching the Expediency of having a well-planned public School and Academy erected in this Kingdom; next to the Examination of the Plan itſelf, it will certainly behove us to be very careful and delicate in the Choice of Profeſſors to teach the ſeveral Branches of Education in ſuch School and Academy. For, let the Plan be as perfect as it will, the Inſufficiency of the Profeſſors employed to execute it will aſſuredly fruſtrate all the national Ends of the Inſtitution; and, inſtead of the many public Advantages with which the Scheme may now appear fraught, will bring an indelible Reproach and Diſgrace upon our Country; and make our *Mart of Literature*, not the Envy and Admiration, but the Jeſt and Contempt of other Nations. As Mr. *Sheridan* then is the * only Candidate that has yet appeared for the Places of Superintendant and Profeſſor of the *Engliſh* Tongue and Oratory in our new-projected Academy; I take it for granted, no Perſon, who is averſe to private Jobbs and has the Good of our Country only in View

* *See p.* 17 *of the* Caſe of the Stage.

(and

(and I doubt not there are many ſuch,) will think we can be over ſtrict in our Inquiry, how far Mr. *Sheridan* may be qualified to fill the Places for which he ſues with Reputation and Abilities. Now is the Time (if I may be allowed to adopt the Phraſe of one of Mr. *Sheridan*'s Advocates, a ſhort Man of the long Robe) *to bring a Writ of Inquiry into his Title.* It will be too late to bring ſuch Writ, when Mr. *Sheridan* ſhall have ſerved his own Ends; hurt many, other-gueſs Men than himſelf; falſified his Promiſes and Predictions to his deluded Country; and diſappointed, to all Intents and Purpoſes, the ſanguine Expectations, which he employs his utmoſt Art and Induſtry at this Day to inſpire and cheriſh. As to Mr. *Sheridan*'s Qualifications for the Place of Director or Superintendant of our Academy, I ſhall not bring them into Queſtion here; his Management of the Theatre for ſeveral Years paſt having perhaps ſufficiently eſtabliſhed his Character in that Reſpect. I mean therefore to inquire at preſent only into his Skill and Knowledge of the *Engliſh* Language; and this I propoſe to do by entering into a more minute and accurate Examination, than I have as yet met with, of the Senſe, Style, and Grammar of his printed Oration. For, if that, undoubtedly the utmoſt Effort of his Genius, will not abide Criticiſm, his Skill in the *Engliſh* Language muſt be given up; and, whatever Return he may expect from the Gratitude of his Country as the firſt Propoſer of an Academy, he is by no Means the proper Perſon to inſtruct our Youth in *Engliſh* and Oratory. But, as the Author of the *Caſe of the Stage* has already obſerved upon ſome of Mr. *Sheridan*'s grammatical Errors, I ſhall (with that Gentleman's Pardon) reprint his Remarks in his own Words, as they come in Order, diſtinguiſhing them from mine by *Italicks*.

Page 4, of the ORATION.

" *But I have ſtill a more powerful Motive to my preſent* " *Undertaking*; *a Motive, which will not ſuffer me to be* " *ſilent without being criminal. For what I have to propoſe* " *is not with a View merely to contribute to the Service of my* " *Country, but to prevent the Growth of an Evil, which* " *may probably bring on the Ruin of* Ireland, *if ſpeedy and* " *effectual Means are not uſed to put a Stop to it.*"

So that, as Mr. Sheridan *underſtands our Language, to pre-*

prevent the ſpeedy Ruin of one's Country is not contributing to its Service.

P 5.

" *I ſaid that the chief Motive, which ſpurred me on at* " *preſent to this Attempt, was the Apprehenſion that this* " *Country may probably be ruined, if ſpeedy and effectual* " *Means are not uſed to prevent it.*"

Here all Tenſe *is confounded.* Spurred *ſhould be* ſpurs, was *ſhould be* is, *in the preſent Tenſe. Otherwiſe, they can not grammatically ſtand with the Words* at preſent, *which ſo ſtrangely mark the Time, that it is wonderful it could eſcape him.*

The Author of this Remark will permit me to add, that the *Engliſh* Tongue might in this Place have afforded ſo great a Maſter of Language, as Mr. *Sheridan*, ſeveral Expreſſions, if not ſtronger, yet better becoming the Mouth of an Orator, than *ſpurred me on*, even if he had not faltered in the Tenſe. Where he uſes the Expreſſion, *a Spur to Induſtry*, in his 10th Page, I entirely approve of it. Spurs may be neceſſary to puſh on that lifeleſs lumpiſh Animal, a Schoolmaſter; but, ſurely, the alert ſprightly debonair Mr. *Sheridan* can not require them.

Ibidem.

" And, as this is to ariſe from *a Cauſe*, which has but " lately made its Appearance; whoſe Operations are not " immediately perceptible by us, being in another King- " dom; whoſe Progreſs has been rapid in a ſhort Space " of Time, though it has not hitherto been taken Notice " of, nor given us the leaſt Alarm; *the Danger* is on theſe " Accounts the greater, and conſequently the Neceſſity " more preſſing of making *the Diſcovery* known."

What Diſcovery? What Diſcovery has Mr. *Sheridan* as yet ſpoke of, to which *Diſcovery* in this Place may be referred? With the greateſt Submiſſion to Mr. *Sheridan*'s ſuperior Judgment, he would have better ſaid *of making the* Cauſe *known*, that Cauſe, which he has deſcanted upon ſo handſomely from the Beginning to very near the Cloſe of his Period.

Some of Mr. *Sheridan*'s Interpreters will perhaps tell us, that Mr. *Sheridan*'s Meaning was *to make the Diſcovery of the* Danger *known*, or, in other Words, to diſcover the Diſcovery of the Danger. If Mr. *Sheridan* looked no further

further back than to the Word *Danger* in the preceding Clauſe, he might have ſaid " the Danger is on theſe Ac-
" counts the greater, and conſequently the Neceſſity more
" preſſing for making the Danger known."

If I remember right, Mr. *Sheridan*, in the 2d Page of the Outlines of his Scheme, mentions *Perſpicuity* as one of the Perfections of an Orator or publick Speaker.

P. 6.

" That ſuch a Cauſe has begun to operate moſt power-
" fully, cannot be doubted by any one, who has had an
" Opportunity of knowing, what *Swarms* of young Gen-
" tlemen have been ſent, within theſe few Years, from
" *Ireland*, *&c.*"

I cannot reconcile myſelf to *Swarms* as a well-choſen Word in this Place. But *Number* would not have ſo well anſwered the Purpoſe of a Man, whoſe Aim and Endeavour it ſeems to have every where been by all manner of Means to multiply, magnify, and exaggerate. As for the Superlative Degree, Mr. *Sheridan* has ſo tattered it by his frequent Uſe of it, that I queſtion who will venture to make uſe of it after him. Then, if the making of confident Aſſertions, which Mr. *Sheridan* lays ſo freely and arbitrarily to other People's Doors, and paſſing *Ipſe dixit*'s for Proofs are to be deemed damnable Sins, perhaps Mr. *Sheridan* has more Reaſon to *ſhudder* than any Man living.

P. 7.

" And what is to be expected from young Men, who
" leave their own Country too early in Life, to have any
" Love for it, grounded upon rational Principles; whoſe
" waxen Minds receive their firſt and deepeſt Impreſſions
" in another; *whoſe firſt Years of rational Life* are there
" employed, *there form their Acquaintance, their Friend-
" ſhips, and their ſocial Ties*; what, I ſay, is to be ex-
" pected from them, but that they will look upon that
" as their Country; there fix their Settlements, where
" their deareſt Connections are, and, by marrying into
" *Engliſh* Families, make a perpetual Alienation, not
" only of themſelves, but of their Poſterity for ever,
" from their native Country? And, when we reflect
" alſo, how many *ſtronger* Inducements on other Ac-
" counts, how many *more powerful* Allurements they will

" have

" have to detain them there; ****** we ſhall have the " more Reaſon to believe that ſuch will be the Event."

Whoſe firſt Years of rational Life there form their Acquaintance, their Friendſhips, and their ſocial Ties. This, to my Ear, has ſomewhat the Sound of Nonſenſe; and yet it is viſible the Verb *form* has no other Nominative Caſe here than what I give it. Mr. *Sheridan* might have ſaid, " whoſe firſt Years of rational Life are there em- " ployed, *who* there form their Acquaintance, their " Friendſhips, and their ſocial Ties;" or " whoſe firſt " Years of rational Life are there employed *in forming* " their Acquaintance, their Friendſhips, and their ſocial " Ties."

Mr. *Sheridan* will poſſibly tell us, he did not intend that *the firſt Years of rational Life* ſhould be conſidered here, as *a Party* or *Agent* contracting Acquaintance, Friendſhips, and ſocial Ties; but only as *a Cauſe*, *Occaſion*, *Means*, *Inſtrument*, or ſomething (I know not what,) forming, that is, bringing about and conciliating, Acquaintance, Friendſhips, and ſocial Ties. But, let Mr. *Sheridan* tell us what he pleaſes, I confeſs myſelf ſtill of Opinion, that this is a very bold Stroke for the oratorial Chair.

Again, what are we to underſtand by *the many ſtronger Inducements on other Accounts, the many more powerful Allurements*, that the Youth of *Ireland* will have to detain them in *England?* and with what are we to compare theſe *ſtronger Inducements*, theſe *more powerful Allurements?* The Inducements and Allurements, and the only ones, mentioned in the preceding Part of the Paragraph, are Acquaintance, Friendſhips, ſocial Ties, Marriage, deareſt Connections, and our young Country-men's looking upon themſelves as Natives of *England*; Inducements and Allurements, all ſo ſtrong and powerful, that Mr. *Sheridan* will hardly affirm, that there are other Inducements and Allurements ſtill ſtronger and more powerful.

If Mr. *Sheridan* meant, that either the Honours and Promotion or the Public Amuſements and Diverſions or both, to be met with in *England*, will have more and ſtronger Charms to detain our Youth there, than any Thing of the like Kind in their own Country will have to invite them Home; if this, I ſay, was Mr. *Sheridan*'s Meaning, I wonder he was ſo unconſcionable as to think, that his Audience or Readers would be at the Trouble of ſupplying ſo much for him to make out his Senſe; and

that

that without his giving them even the Warning of a Blank, to whet their Curioſity, and put them upon their Mettle to find out the Myſtery couched underneath. If Mr. *Sheridan* had contented himſelf with ſaying, " how " many ſtrong Inducements on other Accounts, how " many powerful Allurements, they will have to detain " them there," he would have ſaved me the Time and Trouble of making the foregoing Remark.

P. 8.

" As Promotion by Means of Intereſt *on the other Side* " *of the Water* might be obtained with much more Eaſe " in this Kingdom than in *England*."

By Means of Intereſt on the other Side of the Water, if I miſtake not, is too trite familiar a Phraſe, to be introduced into a fine Oration *pronounced* upon a very ſolemn Occaſion. *By Means of an Engliſh Intereſt* would have done better, if the Vicinity of the Words, *Engliſh* and *England*, did not offend Mr. *Sheridan*'s Ear.

P. 9.

" For, in Truth, it is no other than this; the late " *caſual* Riſe of a few to high Employments, wholly " attributed, though very erroneouſly, to Friendſhips con- " tracted at School."

Has this late caſual Riſe been of *Engliſhmen* or of *Iriſhmen?* Of the latter, we muſt ſuppoſe; otherwiſe, it is Nothing to Mr. *Sheridan*'s Purpoſe. Again, has this Riſe of our Countrymen happened in *England* or in *Ireland?* This is coming too cloſe upon Mr. *Sheridan*. He is not obliged, and does not chuſe, to anſwer this Queſtion. Let us wave it then.

But, if Friendſhips contracted at School have had no Share in Mr. *Sheridan*'s *late caſual Riſe*, to what does he attribute it? To blind Chance. A moſt ſatisfactory Account of the Matter!

But I do not apprehend, that the Riſe of Gentlemen to high Employments, who, by their Birth, Fortune, Connections, Intereſt, Importance, and ſo forth, have a a natural Title to Rank high in the Service of their Country, can either with Juſtice or Propriety be called caſual. If Mr. *Sheridan* would inſinuate by the Word *caſual*, that thoſe Gentlemen are the Sons of Fortune, *novi homines*, in vulgar *Engliſh*, Upſtarts, I have nothing further to offer

betwixt

betwixt him and them. Let them take his Civility as they pleaſe.

Ibidem.

" For, whatever Cauſes may have been aſſigned for the " late remarkable Decreaſe in the College of *Dublin*, in " Point of Numbers, that *(the ſending of our Youth to* " England *for their Education)* is *evidently* the true one."

Evidently! Though this be but the ninth Page, yet Mr. *Sheridan* ſeems to have entirely forgot what he had ſaid in the fifth. In ſpeaking there of the ſame Cauſe which he ſpeaks of here, he told us, " that its Operations are not " immediately perceptible by us, being in another King- " dom; that, though its Progreſs has been rapid in a " ſhort Space of Time, yet it has not hitherto been taken " Notice of, nor given us the leaſt Alarm." And yet, what a Minute and an half ago was imperceptible to us, and thitherto unnoticed, is now become evident. Mr. *Sheridan* might indeed have taken upon him to ſpeak for himſelf, and ſaid it was evident to him: or, if he imagined, that within the Compaſs of ſix or eight Paragraphs he had made the Point as clear to every one of his Audience as it was to himſelf, yet his eminent Modeſty ſhould have prevented him from aſſerting the Evidence of it in the direct peremptory Way he has done it in.

After all, evident as Mr. *Sheridan* pronounces the Point, there are ſtill many People well aſſured, that the ſending our Youth to *England* for their Education, though undoubtedly one true Cauſe of the late Decreaſe of the Number of Students in the College of *Dublin*, is not the only true Cauſe; nay, that it is but one of ſeveral Cauſes, which for many Years paſt have powerfully co-operated to the Production of the ſame Effect. But, beſide that this Argument lies out of my Road at preſent, as I have profeſſedly confined myſelf to the Grammatical Part of Mr. *Sheridan*'s Oration, it might lead me, were I to purſue it, to ſay perhaps ſome Things that might bear a little hard upon certain People whom I very much regard and eſteem. And I am not ſuch a Drawcanſir, that I ſhould indiſcriminately ſeek to level Friend and Foe.

P. 10.

" To which *(the ſending their Children to ſuch Schools as* " *are neareſt to them)* they *(the Parents)* are the rather

 induced,

" induced, both from the Cheapneſs of the Education,
" and an Opportunity of having their Children bred up
" under their own Eye."

Induced from the Cheapneſs of the Education I underſtand. But *induced from an Opportunity of having their Children bred up under their own Eye* is to me a queſtionable Manner of ſpeaking. I ſhall not, however, be over poſitive. The Sentence might have run " to which they are the
" rather induced, both from the Cheapneſs of the Educa-
" tion, and *as it gives them* an Opportunity of having
" their Children bred up under their own Eye."

P. 11.

" *But, if at the ſame Time a Method could be found out,*
" *whereby, not only that Paint might be effected, but our*
" *whole Syſtem of Education ſhould be rendered more complete,*
" *in every Branch, than is to be found either in the reſt of the*
" Britiſh *Dominions, or in any Part of* Europe; *no one will*
" *heſitate to allow* &c."

A whole Syſtem, as theſe Words are commonly underſtood by Engliſhmen, *includes every Branch of that Syſtem. Yet Mr.* Sheridan *thinks, a whole Syſtem may be rendered complete, and yet be defective in ſome Branches of it.*

Ibidem.

" The moſt ſpeedy and probable Means of making
" this Country flouriſh; of raiſing it to a State of Honour,
" Wealth, and Power."

As we are, and deſire to continue, a dependent Nation under the Protection of *Great Britain*, I confeſs myſelf at a Loſs to imagine, what the Power is to which Mr. *Sheridan* would raiſe this Kingdom. Though, under Mr. *Sheridan*'s Auſpicies, we may erect an Academy for ourſelves, yet I ſhall do Mr. *Sheridan* the Juſtice to declare, I do not ſuſpect him of entertaining ſo much as the moſt diſtant Idea of our ſetting up in any Period of Time to come a Government diſtinct from that of *England.*

P. 12.

" We have already *one Part* of Education (and that too
" a moſt eſſential one) in as high a Degree of Perfection,
" as perhaps could have been contrived by the Wit of
" Man. I mean *that Part* which is obtained in the Col-
" lege of *Dublin*, from the Time of Entrance to the
" Time

" Time of taking a Batchelor's Degree. Nothing can " be conceived more excellent than *the firſt Plan of that* " *Part of the Syſtem*, in Point of Theory and Deſign."

The firſt Plan of that Part of the Syſtem. What are we to underſtand here by *that Part of the Syſtem?* and of what Syſtem does Mr. *Sheridan* ſpeak? I ſhould apprehend the proper Anſwer to be *that Part of the* College *Syſtem, which is obtained in the College of* Dublin, *from the Time of Entrance to the Time of taking a Batchelor's Degree.* But how many Plans are there of that Part? For a firſt Plan ſuppoſes more Plans than one.

But perhaps, by *that Part of the Syſtem*, Mr. *Sheridan* intended the whole College Courſe, as but a Part of our general Syſtem of Education; and, by *the firſt Plan* of that Part, ſo much of that Courſe as is learned before the Time of taking a Batchelor's Degree. If this Senſe of the Paſſage before us were admitted, we would have an Anſwer to the Queſtion put above, *How many Plans are there of that Part?* For, what is learned betwixt the Time of taking a Batchelor's Degree and that of commencing Maſter of Arts, would be *a ſecond Plan.*

If Mr. *Sheridan*, by the Word *firſt*, did not mean (as indeed I believe he did not) *firſt in Number*, but *original*; and, by *the Syſtem*, not a general Syſtem of Education containing under it the College Courſe as a Part, but, in particular, the College Syſtem; he ought by all Means to have expreſſed himſelf accordingly, as thus, " nothing " can be conceived more excellent than the *original* Plan " of that Part of the *College* Syſtem." If he had expreſſed himſelf thus, I ſhould not have found it ſo difficult a Matter, as I really have found it, to underſtand him.

P. 13.

" Thus a great Portion of the Time, which ought to " be employed in academic Studies only, muſt be given " up to reſtore *what was previouſly loſt at School.*"

As Mr. *Sheridan* has not thought an homely Proverb (ſee his 17th Page) beneath the Dignity of his Oration, I wonder he did not remember here, *that what a Perſon never had he never loſt.*

But far be ſuch Diſingenuity from me, that I ſhould conceal Mr. *Sheridan*'s Solution of the Paradox before us. By reſtoring what a Boy had previouſly loſt at School, we are to underſtand *the unteaching him vicious Habits*, and

changing the early bad Impreſſions he had received, ſo as to bring him back as it were to the ſame Point from whence he had ſtarted at his firſt going to School; that is, to bring him to know juſt nothing at all.

If any Body requires a further Eclairciſſement upon this Paſſage, I ſhall give him from the *Caſe of the Stage* a better Illuſtration of the Matter than any the celebrated 'Squire *Sheridan* A. M. and I could make out betwixt us, though we were to lay our Noddles together.

At the Bottom of the 21ſt Page of *the Caſe of the Stage* the Author obſerves " *that it is greatly to be feared, that* " *young Gentlemen, bred under the Care of a certain Perſon* " who ſhall be nameleſs, *who muſt naturally conceive a* " *great Opinion of their Maſter, may miſtake his Imperfec-* " *tions for Excellencies, and, by frequent Imitation, may ha-* " *bitually contract Impediments, from which Nature had hap-* " *pily exempted them.*"

P. 17.

" The Author may be praiſed, and his Ingenuity com- " mended."

Here we have Copiouſneſs without Variety; an Affectation of Richneſs with real Poverty. What is *praiſed* but *commended*, and vice verſa. What would the Oration have been the worſe, if Mr. *Sheridan* had ſaid, " The " Author's Ingenuity may be commended, or the Author " may be commended for his Ingenuity?"

Hither we may refer " the *Reſidue* of my Life and " *Remains* of my Health" in the 24th Page.

In the ſame Light we may alſo look upon the three ſynonymous Expreſſions ſucceeding each other in the following Period taken from the 31ſt Page of the Oration.

" Upon the whole, if the Scheme appears chimerical, " uſeleſs, or irrational; let it *periſh*, let it *be obliterated*, " let *no Memorial of it remain.*"

Ibidem.

" But, where the Execution depends upon others, the " beſt and moſt uſeful Deſigns *may*, and often have *fallen* " to the Ground."

The beſt and moſt uſeful Deſigns (ſays Mr. *Sheridan*) may fallen to the Ground. For there is Nothing here to join to *may* but *fallen*. If Mr. *Sheridan* imagines, that *fall* may be underſtood in and ſupplied from *fallen*, I believe

lieve he ſo far miſtakes the Genius of the *Engliſh* Language. With Mr. *Sheridan*'s Permiſſion then I ſhall write it, " the beſt and moſt uſeful Deſigns may *fall*, and often have fallen, to the Ground."

As Mr. *Sheridan* has employed the above Mode of Expreſſion in the ſecond Page of the Outlines of his Scheme, I ſhall take this Place to obſerve upon it.

" Is it not (ſays Mr. *Sheridan*) by this Talent chiefly " that Men *have*, in Times of Peace, for more than two " Centuries; is it not by this Talent, that at this Day, " in both Kingdoms, Men do *make* their Way to Pre- " ferment and Honour?"

That is, Is it not by this Talent chiefly that Men have make their Way to Preferment and Honours? Is there any of Mr. *Sheridan*'s Admirers, of his *Io triumphe* Boys, ſo ſtupid, as not to be ſtruck with this glaring Soleciſm? " How amazing then (ſays Mr. *Sheridan*) has been the " Neglect hitherto of ſo uſeful an Accompliſhment *as that* " *of Oratory!*" How ten thouſand times more amazing (ſay I,) that a Man ſhould ſet himſelf up to inſtruct the World in *Engliſh* and Oratory and (in Effect) deny that there is a Maſter of Engliſh or an Orator living beſide himſelf, who cannot write common Engliſh Grammar, or common Senſe! But, before we diſmiſs the above ſublime Piece of Oratory, let us try to new-turn it. " Is it " not by this Talent chiefly, that, in Times of Peace, " for more than two Centuries, *Men have made*; is it not " by this Talent, that at this Day, in both Kingdoms, " *Men do make* their Way to Preferment and Honours?" But, where Mr. *Sheridan* ſays *in both Kingdoms*, I would ſay *in theſe Kingdoms*, to prevent any willfully blind Animal from miſunderſtanding them for the Kingdoms of *Fez* and *Morocco*.

The ſame Kind of Grammar Mr. *Sheridan* has again made uſe of in the univerſal Advertiſer of Saturday, *February* the 11th, " This Committee to conſiſt of all ſuch " Members as *have* already, or ſhall hereafter *ſubſcribe* to " the Scheme," where I confeſs the Impropriety, though the ſame, is much leſs ſtriking than it is in the *Outlines*.

But to return to the 17th Page of the Oration.

" Every one would wiſh it (*the Scheme*) Succeſs, and, " when it was *blown over*, might ſay it was a Pity it was " not put in Execution."

The

The Expreſſion *blown over*, as far as I remember, is properly applied to Storms, real or metaphorical. In what Light a Scheme calculated for the Benefit of Mankind may be conſidered as a Storm, is what I do not conceive.

But, by *blown over*, perhaps Mr. *Sheridan* meant *blown down*, *over-turned*, *knocked up*, a Fate attending two in three of all the Projects, and Projectors too, that ever the World has heard of.

P. 19.

"Relying therefore on your Candour for a favourable "Interpretation, I will adventure into this dangerous "Path."

What this dangerous Path is, I proteſt I am not abſolutely certain. But I am inclined to believe it is to ſpeak of one's ſelf, which, at the Diſtance of half a Page higher, Mr. *Sheridan* had obſerved was a difficult Point.

Ibidem.

"Till I ſhould be able to remedy this (*the great Defi-*"*ciency which Mr.* Sheridan *had diſcovered in our early Part* "*of Education,*) I determined not to enter upon the Em-"ployment."

I have nothing here to object to the Grammar; but Mr. *Sheridan* really puts me in Mind of the Conundrum of the School-boy, who, having narrowly eſcaped drowning, reſolved never to go into the Water again, 'till he had learned to ſwim.

P. 20.

"At length I found, that there never could be any Set-"tlement of the *Engliſh* Language, nor could it poſſibly "be reduced to Rule, unleſs the Art of ſpeaking were "firſt revived."

I acknowledge I am ſo blind as not to ſee the neceſſary Connection betwixt the reducing of the *Engliſh* Language to Rule and the Revival of Mr. *Sheridan*'s Art of ſpeaking. But I ſhall grant him his Poſtulatum. Now he has recovered the long-loſt Art of Oratory, let him furniſh us with a Syſtem of Rules to guide us in writing and ſpeaking the *Engliſh* Tongue; but, above all things, let him enforce his Rules by the Sanction of his own Example; unleſs he means to reſerve to himſelf the Privilege of being exempted from the Obſervance of thoſe Rules which he would impoſe upon others. Ibidem.

Ibidem.

" *The Revival of the long-loſt Art of Oratory became*
" *therefore the firſt neceſſary Step towards my Deſign.******
" *In my firſt Motions towards it, I was only groping my*
" *Way in the Dark, and my Journey ended in* a *Chaos, where*
" *there could not be ſaid to be Light, but, as* Milton *expreſ-*
" *ſes it, rather* Darkneſs viſible.

" *At length I found that* Theory *alone* would *never bring*
" *me far on my Way; and that continual* Practice *muſt be*
" *added to furniſh me with Lights to conduct me to my Jour-*
" *ney's End. To obtain this, there was but one Way open,*
" *which was the Stage.*"

Mr. Sheridan, *it ſeems, had an uncommon Jaunt of it. When he got to* Chaos, *where his Journey ended,* Theory, *which was the only Horſe he had, though for aught we know he* could, *yet* would *not, bring him far on his Way; and though he got very ſafely before to his Journey's End, in the Dark, yet, when he was there, he was obliged to call upon* Practice *to furniſh him with Lights to conduct him——— Whither?———To his Journey's End.*

This waggiſh Commentator (the Author of the Caſe of the Stage) was unacquainted with an Anecdote that was lately communicated to me by Mr. *Matt. Williamſon.*

In Mr. *Sheridan*'s Manuſcript, the Clauſe, with which, in particular, this Commentator has been pleaſed to make ſo mighty merry, was written thus, *and* " *my firſt Day's Journey ended in* Chaos;" but Mr. *Williamſon*, through Miſtake or Careleſſneſs, left *firſt Day*'s out of the printed Copy. Now, if Mr. *Sheridan*, in laying down his own *Route*, fixed upon Chaos for his firſt Stage only, with a Deſign to Sleep there but one Night; I hope Mr. *Caſe-of-the-Stage* would allow him to purſue his Journey next Morning without ſneering at him.

Take here another Obſervation, made by the Author of *the Caſe of the Stage* upon the latter Part of the above Quotation compared with the Bottom of P. 21. and Head of P. 22. of the Oration.

Mr. Sheridan *(obſerves that Author,) in Page* 20 *of his Oration, ſays* " *he had* the Theory *of Oratory, but found*
" that *alone could not do, without continual* Practice, *which*
" *could not be had any where but upon the Stage;*" *but, in the Pages* 21 *and* 22, *he ſays,* " *that, after he had been*
" *ſome Years on the Stage, an Accident became the Means of*
" firſt *laying open to his View the fundamental Principles of*
" *the Art.*" *This, it is thought, is a Contradiction, unleſs*

Mr.

Mr. Sheridan, *by* the fundamental Principles *of an Art, underſtands ſomething different from* the Theory *of an Art.* See the 29th Page of the Caſe of the Stage.

P. 23.

" Beſides, as I had intended to erect a ſmall Academy " purpoſely for the regular Inſtruction of young Perſons, " who were poſſeſſed of Genius and Talents for the Stage, " and *who ſhould have all proper Helps towards fitting them* " *for that Profeſſion*, it might be hoped in Time, that the " Theatre would become an ADMIRABLE Aſſiſtant to the " School of Oratory."

The Clauſe *who ſhould have all proper Helps towards fitting them for that Profeſſion* is introduced here in ſuch a Manner as would at firſt Sight incline us to connect it to the immediately preceding Clauſe; ſince theſe Clauſes begin, both, with *who*, and are joined by *and*. Yet good Senſe requires its being connected to the firſt Clauſe of the Sentence; and Mr. *Sheridan* would have put us directly in the Way of connecting it ſo if he had ſaid, " *As I had* " *intended to erect a ſmall Academy purpoſely for the regular* " *Inſtruction of young Perſons*, who were poſſeſſed of Ge- " nius and Talents for the Stage, *that they might have all* " *Helps towards fitting them for that Profeſſion*, &c."

But, it may be, Mr. *Sheridan*, by *who ſhould have all proper Helps*, meant *who ought to have all proper Helps*; as if young Perſons, poſſeſſed of Genius and Talents for the Stage, had a natural Claim to all proper Helps, that could be afforded them, towards fitting them for that Profeſſion.

If I have not yet hit off Mr. *Sheridan*'s Senſe, I muſt leave him to be his own Interpreter.

P. 24.

The rock-founded Edifice, ſo nearly completed that it wanted but the Attick Story; the long-laboured Pile, which even an Earthquake (that in two Minutes demoliſhes whole Cities) could not knock to Pieces in leſs than the Space of *one entire Night*; all this, I ſay, I leave the ſame *Heap of Ruins* I found it. But, for the Good of our Country, let us all unite with one Voice to deprecate a ſecond ſuch Earthquake. Di, talem avertite peſtem, pray I.

Ibidem.

Ibidem.

" Thus at once were all my Hopes blaſted. The only " Fruits I reaped, from a nine Years inceſſant Toil both " of Body and Mind, were the Loſs of a conſiderable " Sum of Money, *by the whole of my Undertaking*, and a " broken Conſtitution."

Let any one, in reading this Sentence, leave the Clauſe *by the whole of my Undertaking* entirely out, and he will poſſibly think, as I do, that it never had any Buſineſs here. Perhaps Mr. *Sheridan* apprehended, that it made the Period rounder, and conſequently contributed to plumping up the Cheeks of the *Pronouncer*.

Ibidem.

" I ſhould be ſorry that an Art which coſt me ſo much " Pains to acquire, the Propagation of which appears " *to me* to be fraught with the higheſt Benefits to the " Publick, ſhould periſh with me. I am willing to em- " ploy the Reſidue of my Life and Remains of my Health, " in doing the beſt Service in my poor Power to my " Country."

The Parliament of *England* purchaſed Mrs. *Stevens's Medicines* for the Stone and Gravel with a round Sum of Money. His M —— y too has from Time to Time been graciouſly pleaſed to grant his L----rs P-----nt, to enable one Man to make his Fortune by his *Pills*, another by his *Elixirs*, a third by his *Drops*. Why then ſhould not Mr. *Sheridan* meet with equal or much higher Encouragement for diſcloſing and propagating the Benefit of his infinitely more valuable *Noſtrum?* Shall we, his Countrymen, be ſo unconſcionable, ſo blind to our own Advantage and ungrateful to our *faithful Servant* and Benefactor, as to ſuffer him and his Εὑρήκα to periſh together? No, rather, as Mr. *Sheridan* has ſhut up all the Play-Houſes in this Kingdom for twice ſeven Years paſt, ſo let him now ſhut up all the Schools in it too for twice ſeven Years to come; and, whilſt he ſwims (Io *Bacche!*) through Life upon an Ocean of Burgundy, let all bad Schoolmaſters, ay, and good ones too, famiſh, they and theirs, for want of Bread. Yea, let our College itſelf, which, with all the acknowledged Excellence of its original Plans, teaches Nothing, be laid aſide, like the *Engliſh* Houſe of Peers in

Oliver Cromwell's Days, as uſeleſs. How can we do too much to indulge, gratify, to exalt that Man, who, by many Years intenſe Application, has found out ſuch *an infallible Recipe*, a *Recipe*, which no human *Chymiſt* but himſelf could have hit upon, as in due Time cannot fail of making all our Sons, every the moſt invincible Dunce amongſt them, Swaddling Preachers, Stage-Players, or Mountebanks?

P. 25.

" To qualify every young Gentleman *to make a Figure* " *proportionable to his Talents*, in whatever Profeſſion or " Sphere of Life he ſhall make his Choice, or *into which* " *his Lot ſhall have caſt him.*"

To make a Figure proportionable to his Talents into which (Profeſſion or Sphere of Life) *his Lot ſhall have caſt him* is Mr. *Sheridan*'s Language. He ought to have ſaid *into whichſoever his Lot ſhall have caſt him.* For, though the Words in the ſecond Clauſe, *Profeſſion or Sphere of Life*, may be very properly brought down to make out the Senſe in the laſt Clauſe; yet the Particle *ever* or *ſoever* is not to be detached from *what*, and brought down along with them; and yet without that Particle the other Words make Nonſenſe.

P. 27.

In the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Motion to the *Engliſh* Houſe of Lords we have " Therefore to provide that ſuch " *Perſons* (Youth of Quality and Worth) in their tender " Years, do not *ſpend their Time fruitleſsly, about the Town* " *or elſewhere*, &c."

Here we have *in their tender Years*, and *in their younger and tender Age* a little lower down; and yet I ſtrongly ſuſpect the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Academy was intended only for finiſhing young Gentlemen after they had paſſed through the ordinary Courſe taught at Schools and Colleges, it being (for the moſt Part) ſuch *Perſons*, who were apt or indeed allowed *to ſpend their Time fruitleſsly about the Town or elſewhere.* This is not a Privilege in which Children and Schoolboys are generally or often indulged. And in the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Time, though the *Engliſh* had not an Orator then amongſt them, and have not had an Orator amongſt them to this Day (except ſo long as

Mr.

Mr. *Sheridan* reſided an Ex----e with them,) yet they wanted not Schools in Abundance to confine their little People from ſtrolling about and dirtying their Cloaths.

P. 29.

" The Proſecution of the *Spaniſh* Match, and many " troubleſome Affairs during that Reign, were *the Means* " of keeping this *Matter dormant*; and the untimely End " of the Duke of *Buckingham*, its Author, *put the finiſh-* " *ing Blow to it.* That it was never afterwards revived, " as it is much to be lamented, ſo, were it neceſſary, is " it eaſily to be accounted for.

" But, inſtead of waſting Time about ſuch *Speculative* " *Points*, let the only Conſideration now be, how *it* may " be reduced to Practice."

In the firſt Place, the Word *Means* ought to have been *Cauſe* or *Occaſion*. For, to call thoſe Affairs, with which the Paragraph ſets out, *the Means* of keeping this Matter dormant, would ſuppoſe, that thoſe Affairs were contrived by the Parties concerned in them on Purpoſe to obſtruct or defeat the Project of the intended Academy. Whereas, with Reſpect to this Project, thoſe Affairs were merely accidental.

Again, *put the finiſhing Blow to* is not proper. Mr. *Sheridan* would be ready enough to object to the Propriety of my Language, ſhould I threaten *to put a Blow to his Pate.* There are two common Expreſſions, in Import nearly oppoſite to each other, *to put the finiſhing Hand to* and *to give the finiſhing Blow to.* Of theſe Expreſſions, Mr. *Sheridan* has begun with the one and ended with the other.

" But, *inſtead of waſting Time about ſuch* ſpeculative " Points, *let the only Conſideration now be, how* it *may be re-* " *duced to Practice.*"

Here (ſays the Writer of the Caſe of the Stage) *we have a falſe Concord.* It *ſhould be* they, *to agree with* Points, *which is plural.*

The Author of the foregoing Remark, I ſhall not ſay, did not (for I am certain he did,) but would not underſtand Mr. *Sheridan* in this Place. For, *this Quotation compoſing* (as the Remarker obſerves) *an entire Paragraph*, he did not (I muſt imagine) think he owed Mr. *Sheridan* ſo much Complaiſance as to go with him beyond the Li-

mits of the Paragraph in Queſt of an Antecedent for *it*. Mr. *Sheridan*, however, by the Word *it*, moſt certainly meant (if he meant any Thing) the *dormant Matter* mentioned in the foregoing Paragraph, that is, the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Scheme of an Academy; as, by his *ſpeculative Points* here, he muſt have intended *that eaſy Account which* he tells us *might be given*, why the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Scheme of an Academy was never revived after that Nobleman's Death.

But, though I have done Mr. *Sheridan* Juſtice here againſt the Author of the Caſe of the Stage, I have not as yet entirely acquitted him myſelf. For the *dormant Matter* in the foregoing Paragraph is not a proper Antecedent to the Word *it* in this. For, how likeſoever Mr. *Sheridan* may fancy himſelf to the Duke of *Buckingham*, or his Scheme of an Academy to the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Scheme, yet his is not the ſame identical Scheme with that noble Duke's; and Mr. *Sheridan* himſelf will not affirm, it is the Duke of *Buckingham*'s Scheme, that, at this Day and amongſt us, is upon the Point of being reduced to Practice. Nay, I am of Opinion, Mr. *Sheridan* plumes himſelf too much upon the Merits of his Scheme, to be willing to give the Name or Credit of it to any other Perſon, dead or living. Upon the whole, Mr. *Sheridan* ought to have expreſſed himſelf in the following or ſome ſuch Manner " Inſtead of waſting Time upon ſo uſeleſs an " Enquiry, let the only Conſideration now be, how a " Scheme of Education, far ſuperior to the Duke of *Buck-* " *ingham's*, a Scheme, which I have been breeding with " innumerable Qualms for ſo many Years paſt, and which " I am now ready to be brought to Bed of, may be re- " duced to Practice."

Ibidem.

" A Deſign, once thought ſo honourable, ſo neceſſary, " by the whole Legiſlative Body, has not ſince changed " its Nature."

By the whole legiſlative Body—— of England, we muſt add for Mr. *Sheridan*. Though, in Truth, if we were to conſider this Paragraph as making compleat Senſe within itſelf, we would naturally think he meant the *legiſlative Body* of the People to which his Oration is addreſſed, not that of *England* or of any other Country.

Ibidem.

Ibidem.

In the laſt Paragraph of this (the 29th) Page, the grand national Council will perceive, how much they are obliged to Mr. *Sheridan* for his being ſo mighty willing to excuſe them from giving themſelves any other Trouble about his Academy, than that of exerting their *Munificence* towards it; in like Manner, as they have done to other Public Inſtitutions, as the *Dublin Society*, the *Proteſtant Charter-Schools*, the *Linen Manufactory*, the ſeveral *Charitable Societies*, and the *Univerſity*; not one of which is productive of one tenth Part of the Advantages to this Kingdom, which Mr. *Sheridan* promiſes from his School and Academy.

But, if Mr. *Sheridan*'s extreme Modeſty had permitted him to ſpeak out his whole Mind, he wanted (it ſeems) ſomewhat elſe from the Grand National Council beſide a *remarkable Inſtance of their* wonted *Munificence*. He wanted (we are told, nor does he himſelf diſown it) and ſtill wants, to have an Act of Parliament paſſed in his Favour, conſtituting him, *for the Reſidue of his Life and Remains of his Health*, *Intendant general*, *Manager in chief*, ay, and *ſole Proprietor*, of all the *Academies*, *Schools*, *Theatres*, yea, and *Colleges* too, now exiſting or hereafter to exiſt within his Majeſty's Kingdom of *Ireland*. Amazing Monopoly! ſo prodigiouſly extenſive, that no Age or Country has ever furniſhed any Precedent of the like. Even when this *Iſland of Saints*, this quondam Seat of Letters and Lettered Men, *This Lamp* once *ſet on high*, had the Honour of inſtructing the Youth of all *Europe*, as well as her own, how to break their Teeth in cracking Nuts with *Ariſtotle*, and of guiding them (*aſtray*) through all the ſerpentine Walks of *School Divinity* (the only boaſted Learning, if any, then in Vogue;) when ſhe taught her crowded Auditories to gabble over their *Pater*'s, their *Ave-Maria*'s, and the *Maſs*, in bald *Latin*; even then, I ſay, we do not learn from Sir *James Weir*, the Pſalter of *Caſhel*, or any other authentic Record of thoſe Times, that any one Man, how impudent and enterpriſing ſoever an Impoſtor, ſo much as offered at a Scheme to divert into his own Coffers, or into his own Hogſheads, the entire Profits ariſing from the Education of the whole Youth of the Nation, from the Nurſery till their Arrival at full and perfect Manhood. The Glory of this Coup d'éclat was reſerved for the celebrated, for the modeſt, Mr. *Sheridan*. P. 8.

P. 8.

" The ſecond (*Motive*) was, the Want of public " Schools of Reputation in *Ireland*, and the great Cha- " racters, which the PRESENT Maſters of the chief " Shools in *England* univerſally and deſervedly BORE."

Do theſe *Engliſh* Schoolmaſters ſtill BEAR the great Characters which they ſo univerſally and deſervedly BORE ſome Time ago? If they do, why did not Mr. *Sheridan* ſay BEAR inſtead of BORE? The exact Counterpart of this Blunder in Point of *Tenſe* the Reader may ſee cenſured by the Author of the Caſe of the Stage, if he will take the Trouble to turn back to the 5th Page of theſe Remarks.

Now I have, in ſome Manner, got over the Taſk which I enjoined to myſelf at my firſt ſettting out; and, if the Author of *the Caſe of the Stage* confeſſed himſelf tired at the End of his Performance, I am poſitive I have much more Reaſon to be ſo at the End of mine, ſuch as it is; having gone through a moſt irkſome and diſagreeable Drudgery, which he very prudently declined, though not without ſhewing us in a few Inſtances, that no Man was more equal to the Taſk than he, could he have deſcended ſo low.

Now, forſooth! Mr. *Sheridan* is the murdered innocent Gentleman, I (why not I as well as another?) the Bravo furniſhed with a dark Lanthorn and Stilletto; Mr. *Sheridan* is General *Braddock* (an ominous Name,) I one of the Savage *Indians* levelling my Firelock at his Head from behind a Thicket; Mr. *Sheridan* is the Traveller made wiſe by Experience, I the Graſshopper that in vain would chirp him from the Purſuit of his Journey; Mr. *Sheridan* is the Bear, the Lion, or the Baboon (if he will,) I the rouſed Hornet; Mr. *Sheridan* (like his Friend, Doctor *Swift*) is one of a ſuperior Claſs of Beings, I a vile proſtitute Slave; Mr. *Sheridan* is an Introducer of the Felicities of Paradiſe into his Country, I, if not the envious Arch-Fiend *Satan* himſelf, one of his Imps at leaſt. All granted. But let not Mr. *Sheridan* charge me (as he has done others) with the Sin of making confident Aſſertions. Neither let him think of rejecting my Evidence as that of a Witneſs coming maſqued into a Court of Judicature.

This

This I bar too. For, if ſuch Witneſs, inſtead of requiring the Court to receive any Fact upon his Teſtimony, ſhould undertake to convict the accuſed Party from the accuſed Party's own Mouth, it would be no reaſonable Objection to his being heard, that he wore a Maſque, though it were (like *Ajax*'s Shield) ſeven-fold. As ſuch a Witneſs I appear. How far I have ſucceeded in making Mr. *Sheridan* criminate himſelf, let the Court, that is, *a ſenſible, candid, clear-ſighted Public*, determine.

As to the putting abroad of anonymous *Libels* (which creates ſo much Anxiety of Mind to the *humane* Mr. *Sheridan*,) he will give me Leave to obſerve to him, that many a Man can ſcribble a little, and may now and then ſee Occaſion for the Exertion of his puiſné Talent, who yet has not the Hardineſs to ſtand the Sight of his own Name printed in Capitals with an A. M. after it; much leſs to enter the Liſts (Mr. *Sheridan*'s own Phraſe) openly and in the Face of Day with ſo doughty redoubtable a Champion as Mr. *Sheridan*. Mr. *Cibber* and Mr. *Lee*, Knights of Mr. *Sheridan*'s own renowned Order, are the Heroes worthy to break a Spear with him. When he and they encounter, we have a *Par bene compoſitum*, like to like, as a certain old Gentleman ſaid to the Collier.

One Word more, and I have done. If I, in my Conſcience, thought Mr. *Sheridan* but nine Tenths of the Man he ſets himſelf up for, and that a School and Academy under his Direction, and in which he ſhould profeſs *Engliſh* and Oratory, would be productive to this Kingdom of any Thing like the many mighty Advantages for which he is now ready to give us his Bond and Judgment, I would think I deſerved to be jibbetted ſeventy Cubits high, if I ſhould draw either Stilletto or Pen againſt him. In Favour therefore of an Academy Scheme, as far as my Suffrage will go, I declare myſelf; but proteſt againſt the preſent Candidate for the Places of *Engliſh* Profeſſor and Orator; and, in Preference to him by the Odds of an hundred (thouſand, I was going to add) to one, I ſhall give my Voice for the Author of *the Caſe of the Stage*, let him be who he will, if his Friends can prevail upon him to ſtand Mr. *Sheridan*'s Competitor.

Dublin February 20, 1758.

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